GENERAL NOTES
THE ANTS (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE)
OF THE CADDO LAKE REGION OF NORTHEAST TEXAS

Carl R. Turner and Jerry L. Cook
304 University, Suite 207, Marshall, Texas 75670 and
Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843-2475

Caddo Lake, located in northeast Texas, represents a unique bald-cypress ecosystem. It is unique not only in its origin but also in its distribution of cypress trees which are found throughout much of the lake. Caddo is the only natural lake in the state of Texas and one of the largest natural lakes in the South. This study was undertaken to determine a preliminary listing of the ant species of the islands and cypress trees in this unique habitat.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Specimens were collected from April through August of 1996. Only those ants that could be reached from a boat were collected from cypress trees. Specimens were collected with forceps and placed in 70% isopropyl alcohol. Specimens were later dry mounted, identified and deposited with the Texas A&M Insect Collection (Voucher No. 622).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Thirteen species of ants were collected. Table 1 lists the species and location(s) where they were collected. There are likely more species present on the islands and cypress trees than reported in this study. Sampling was limited to that part of the trees that could be reached from a boat and collection was only done during daylight hours. There is a good possibility of additional ant species living high in the cypress trees or species that are active only at night.

Nine species of ants were found on six isolated cypress trees while only seven species were found at ten collecting sites on the islands. On the cypress trees in water, one tree had four species, three trees had two species and two trees had one species. Tapinoma sessile was collected from a cavity in a cypress tree. One cypress tree located on the bank
Table 1. Ant species collected and collection sites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Number of Sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cypress trees in water:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crematogaster lineolata (Say)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crematogaster clara Mayr</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aphaenogaster lamellidens Mayr</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camponotus pennsylvanicus (DeGeer)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camponotus rasilis Wheeler</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leptothorax schaumi Roger</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapinoma sessile (Say)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solenopsis invicta Buren</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pheidole sp.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Island collections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Collection Site(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crematogaster lineolata (Say)</td>
<td>Cypress tree, fallen log &amp; forest floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aphaenogaster fulva Roger</td>
<td>Cypress tree &amp; forest floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camponotus pennsylvanicus (DeGeer)</td>
<td>Cypress tree (2 sites), hickory tree &amp; forest floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camponotus americanus Mayr</td>
<td>Fallen log</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leptothorax pergandei Emery</td>
<td>Fallen log</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solenopsis invicta Buren</td>
<td>River bank &amp; forest floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formica sp.</td>
<td>Fallen log (2 sites)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

of an island had three species while one cypress tree in the interior of the island had only one species.

The only known report of an ant species living on cypress trees isolated in water is that of Crematogaster vermiculata Emery which has been found only when associated with bald cypress (Buren 1968). Most of the species found have not been reported on such cypress trees to the authors’ knowledge. Two species of ants, Aphaenogaster lamellidens and Camponotus rasilis are not found in the checklist of Texas ants by Wheeler & Wheeler (1985). It should be noted, however, that Creighton (1950:389) reported Camponotus rasilis from Texas.

The number of ant species collected on the cypress trees was unexpected. Although three species of ants were collected from a cypress tree on the bank of an island, the cypress trees isolated in water appear to have more life on them such as dragonflies, spiders and insects than do the trees on the islands. Further investigation into the diversity of life on these trees and their ecology would be of great interest.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to thank Ed Riley for his help with the ant specimens.

The distribution of the Muscovy duck (Cairina moschata) is found in southern Texas, from Hidalgo County south to Brownsville, and from Starr and Hidalgo counties in the west to Cameron and Willacy counties in the east. This species is common in the Rio Grande Valley and is found in a variety of habitats, including wetlands, riparian areas, and agricultural fields. In Texas, the Muscovy duck is found in small ponds, swamps, and marshes, as well as in larger bodies of water such as lakes and rivers. The eggs are laid in floating nests, and the ducklings are able to swim soon after hatching. The Muscovy duck is a common species in the Rio Grande Valley and is a popular target for hunters during the duck hunting season. The meat of the Muscovy duck is considered to be tender and flavorful, and it is often served at local restaurants and bars. The Muscovy duck is an important part of the cultural and culinary heritage of the Rio Grande Valley. It is a symbol of the region's agricultural history and its connection to the land. The Muscovy duck is a bird that is associated with the landscape and culture of the Texas Rio Grande Valley.
While one cypress tree in the interior of

an ant species living on cypress trees

Aphragmatogaster vermiculata Emery which has

wth bald cypress (Buren 1968). Most

en reported on such cypress trees to the

ies of ants, Aphaenogaster lamellidens

found in the checklist of Texas ants by

It should be noted, however, that

Camponotus rasillus from Texas.

lected on the cypress trees was unex-

of ants were collected from a cypress

cypress trees isolated in water appear

ag as dragonflies, spiders and insects than

ther investigation into the diversity of

togy would be of great interest.

WLEDGMENTS

ink Ed Riley for his help with the ant

TExAS J. SCI. 50(2)

ITERATURE CITED

Buren, W. F. 1968. A review of the species of Crematogaster, sensu striclo, in North

America (Hymenoptera, Formicidae) Part II. Descriptions of new species. J. Georgia

Entomol. Soc., 3(3):91-121.


Comparative Zoology, 104:1-585 + 57 plates.


64.

UNUSUAL NESTING OF THE MUSCOVY DUCK

cairina moschata in northeasternc Mexico

Jack C. Eitniear, Alvaro Aragon-Tapia and John T. Baccus

Center for the Study of Tropical Birds, 218 Conway Drive

San Antonio, Texas 78209-1716 U.S.A.

22 Cesar Lopez de Lara y Venustiano Carranza No. 553, C.P. 87020

Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico and

Department of Biology, Southwest Texas State University

San Marcos, Texas 78666 U.S.A.

The distribution of the Muscovy Duck Cairina moschata extends from

ern Texas (Hidalgo, Starr and Zapata counties), and northeastern

central Mexico, south through Central America and South America to
	hern Argentina and southern Bolivia (Leopold 1959; Gomez-


pecies nests at heights of 3-20 m in tree hollows, between palm leaves,

rificial nest boxes (Johnsgard 1975; Cruz-Nieto 1991) and rarely in

ushes on the ground (Phillips 1923).

This note documents an unusual nesting of the Muscovy Duck (at the

ern boundary of the species' distribution) in a crevice in the wall of

e cave in northeastern Mexico. The limestone cave (40 m wide by 20

high by 35 m deep) has an east-facing entrance in a cliff about 100

above Mexico Highway 85 and is located 3 km southwest of Ciudad

ante, Tamaulipas near the small village of El Abrab (22°36'33''N, 99°01'27''W).

On 15 February 1997, a male and 11 female Muscovy Ducks were

erved perched on crevices in the walls of the cave. One female was

served on the floor of the cave brooding a group of 15-18 down-

dcovered ducklings. The species is not known to construct a nest.

However, below one large crevice in the cave wall (about 15 m above

e cave floor) a large pile of down had collected, likely fallen from a